

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 610

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should promote the adoption of, and the United Nations should adopt, a resolution at its October meeting to protect the living resources of the high seas from destructive, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing practices.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 30 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 29), 2006

Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. WARNER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SMITH, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DODD, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KERRY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should promote the adoption of, and the United Nations should adopt, a resolution at its October meeting to protect the living resources of the high seas from destructive, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing practices.

Whereas it is of paramount importance to the United States and all nations to ensure the protection, conservation, and sustainable management of high seas living marine resources;

Whereas fisheries of the high seas annually generate hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity and support thousands of jobs in the United States and its territories as well as nations throughout the world;

Whereas the high seas constitute a globally significant reservoir of marine biodiversity, and compounds derived from organisms found on the high seas show promise for the treatment of deadly diseases such as cancer and asthma;

Whereas the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reports that a growing number of high seas fish stocks important to the United States and the world are overfished or depleted;

Whereas the United Nations has called for urgent action to address the impact of high seas fishing practices that have adverse impacts on vulnerable marine species and habitats;

Whereas destructive, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing by vessels flying non-United States flags threatens high seas fisheries and the habitats that support them;

Whereas nations whose fleets conduct destructive, illegal, unreported, and unregulated high seas fishing enjoy an unfair competitive advantage over United States fishermen, who must comply with the rigorous conservation and management requirements of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other laws in order to conserve exhaustible natural resources; and

Whereas international cooperation is necessary to address destructive, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing which harms the sustainability of high seas living marine resources and the United States fishing industry: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) the United States should continue to dem-
 3 onstrate international leadership and responsibility
 4 regarding the conservation and sustainable use of
 5 high seas living marine resources by vigorously pro-
 6 moting the adoption of a resolution at this year’s
 7 61st session of the United Nations General Assem-
 8 bly calling on all nations to protect vulnerable ma-
 9 rine habitats by prohibiting their vessels from engag-
 10 ing in destructive fishing activity in areas of the
 11 high seas where there are no applicable conservation
 12 or management measures or in areas with no appli-
 13 cable international fishery management organization
 14 or agreement, until such time as conservation and
 15 management measures consistent with the Magnu-
 16 son-Stevens Act, the United Nations Fish Stocks
 17 Agreement, and other relevant instruments are
 18 adopted and implemented to regulate such vessels
 19 and fisheries; and

20 (2) the United States calls upon the member
 21 nations of the United Nations to adopt a resolution

- 1 at its October meeting to protect the living resources
- 2 of the high seas from destructive, illegal, unreported,
- 3 and unregulated fishing practices.

